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**TO:** GENERAL COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT:** LITTLE LAKE MUNICIPAL DRAIN – APPROVAL TO ABANDON

**PREPARED BY AND  
KEY CONTACT:** D. CASPICK  
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**SUBMITTED BY:** R. S. KAHLE, M. Eng., P. Eng.  
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**GENERAL MANAGER  
APPROVAL:** R. J. FORWARD, MBA, M.Sc., P. Eng.  
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE 

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER APPROVAL:** C. LADD  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 

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**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

1. That notice be given of the intent to abandon the “Little Lake Municipal Drain” in its entirety.

**PURPOSE & BACKGROUND**

2. The purpose of the Staff Report is to seek Council approval to initiate the process to abandon the “Little Lake Municipal Drain” (see Appendix “A”).
3. The Little Lake Municipal Drain was constructed under the provisions of the Drainage Act pursuant to By-law 1254 of the Township of Vespra on lands now within the City of Barrie.
4. The By-law to enact the work was passed on January 2, 1968. The Engineers report dated July 20, 1967, was adopted as part of the By-law, which provided for the installation of a closed drain and related appurtenances from Little Lake upstream to Highway 400. A small branch drain, designated the East Branch was also constructed as part of the work.
5. In 2002 the City reconstructed Little Lake Drive. As part of that work municipal easements were obtained over a portion of the drain north and south of Little Lake Drive. These easements are to ensure conveyance of the flow and appropriate maintenance (City’s responsibility).
6. In 2011 the City received an application (rezoning and plan of subdivision) from Little Lake Seniors Community development for the property lying north of Highway 400 and south of Little Lake Drive (see Appendix “A”).
7. As part of their development proposal the Little Lake Seniors Community proposed reconstruction / realignment of a portion of the Municipal Drain (the section located on their property), which will improve the hydraulic capacity of the drain. The reconstructed portion will lie within a newly created municipal easement, as per a condition of development.
8. The developer has requested that the “municipal drain” designation be abandoned in favour of a City of Barrie maintained system so that it can construct the required realigned drain across its property.

## ANALYSIS

9. Lands in the watershed designated as Block A, Block B and Block C on the Plan of Subdivision for the Little Lake Seniors Community will be developed in the near future. The municipal drain in Block B and Block C is to be replaced and realigned as part of the work. The East Branch is to be completely removed. No work is currently required in the section downstream of Little Lake Drive to the outlet at the lake. This area (downstream of Little Lake Drive) has a formal easement in place to allow the City to repair, replace or improve the existing drain when required.
10. The Little Lake Municipal Drain was constructed under the provisions of the Drainage Act to service what was a rural area bi-sected by a major highway. The watershed has changed considerably since the installation of the drain. To complete the necessary upgrades and realignment under the provisions of the Drainage Act would be extremely difficult in what is no longer a rural area. Financial contributions required under the Drainage Act by those adjacent and upstream of the drain would likely be appealed leading to hearings and delays. This would include lands owned by the RVH and Georgian College.
11. The preferred option is to abandon the Little Lake Drain in accordance with Section 84 of the Drainage Act. This would include all works constructed in accordance with the 1967 Engineers Report enacted by By-law 1254. Section 84(2) which provides that Council may initiate the process for the abandonment of all or part of a municipal drain. A notice is circulated to all assessed landowners within the watershed area. If no objections are filed a By-law may be passed to abandon the drain. If a landowner has concerns they may request that an Engineer be appointed to review the situation and either recommend the abandonment or not.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

12. There are no environmental matters related to the recommendation.

## ALTERNATIVES

13. There is one Alternative available for consideration by General Committee:

### Alternative #1

General Committee could decide to retain the designation of "Municipal Drain".

This Alternative is not recommended for the following reasons:

- The "Drainage Act" is intended to apply to Agricultural land.
- The City hasn't exercised its right to impose costs on property owners for maintenance since annexation of the lands, and therefore would likely be unsuccessful in any future attempts.
- It would be complicated to apply costs to urban properties.
- The drainage area of the Little Lake Municipal Drain includes a portion of Georgian Drive. As such the City's practice is to obtain control of conveyance and maintenance of the drainage system.
- The City already controls a portion of the Little Lake Municipal Drain north and south of Little Lake Drive, by way of easements.

**FINANCIAL**

14. The capital cost associated with reconstruction of the drainage system will be the responsibility of the developer (Little Lake Seniors Development); future maintenance/replacement costs will be the responsibility of the City, which is standard practice where municipal stormwater runoff is involved. The expected useful life of the reconstructed stormwater conveyance system is 100 years; the annualized cost for maintenance and replacement is approximately \$3,000.

**LNKAGE TO 2010 – 2014 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN**

15. The recommendation included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2010-2014 City Council Strategic Plan:
- Manage Growth and Protect the Environment

APPENDIX "A"

Little Lake Municipal Drain

